

Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life

Held on November 3, 2000

AD 131 10:00am Loyola Campus

Present: Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Ms J. Calder, Mr. R. Côté, Ms M. Drew, Mr. C. Dubois, Ms J. Fowler, Mr. A. Gagnon, Dr. S.M. Graub, Dr. J. Jans, Mr. T. Keefer Ms A. Kerby, Mr. S. Nazzal, Ms J. Raso, Ms T. Ryan, Ms N. Sajnani, Mr. C. Schulz, Dr. F. Shaver, Mr H. Zarins, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. W. Curran, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

Absent with Regrets: Ms N. Sajnani, Ms L. Stanbra, Ms K. Hedrich

Absent: Ms M. Husseini

Delegates: Mr. L. Filion represented Mr. Aubé

Guests: Mr. K. Pruden, Ms M. Gross, Mr. R. Stom

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms Drew and seconded by Mr. Côté.

The Motion was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Boisvert invited Mr. Keefer to brief Council on the CSU financial situation. Mr. Keefer confirmed that the CSU was undergoing a forensic audit to determine the exact nature of the alleged fraud. He indicated also that the signing authorities for the CSU have been changed and the appropriate departments have been informed

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF September 29, 2000

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Dubois and seconded by Dr. Graub.

The Motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4. 1 Revised Poster Policy

Mr. Pruden addressed the two documents distributed to Council – The draft Poster Policy and the University Policy on the Display of Posters. He reminded Council that the poster policy is a draft for discussion by Council. He spoke briefly about the various problems associated with “postering”. Among them were the lack of and ineffectiveness of the bulletin boards,

the removal of out-dated posters, cleaning costs which in some cases can be as high as \$1,000 and the difficulty of enforcing the policy.

Mr. Keefer had concerns with points 5, 7, 8, 9 of the draft policy. These points referred to posters of a commercial nature, to the number and size of posters allowed, authorization of posters, and the hanging of banners from the Mezzanine. Mr. Keefer felt strongly that every single student organization should have the right to put up sufficient posters to successfully advertise their events and that these points were a hinderance. He also felt that addition of "cork" boards could be a viable answer to some of the concerns expressed. Mr. Schultz agreed, adding that posterage is the main means of communication for student groups and he felt that these restrictions were not in the best interests of student groups. Ms Fowler also had concerns about point #5 which restricts posters of a commercial nature. Dr. Boisvert said that the intent of point #5 was not to curtail the revenue generating events of student associations, but rather to place restrictions on "outside" commercial ventures on campus. Mr. Pruden agreed to modify this point.

Ms Fowler asked if the poster policy applied to all members of the university community. Dr. Boisvert explained that in theory the policy applied to the whole university. However, he said that the "larger lit-up boards" are under the jurisdiction of the Vice-Rector, Services.

Ms Boujaklian said that Physical Resources has considered providing portable bulletin boards for the "peak posterage period" which could be placed temporarily in strategic locations. Dr. Boisvert expressed appreciation for the efforts of Physical Resources.

Dr. Boisvert suggested that any concerns or suggestions should be sent to Mr. Pruden in writing so that he can address these issues in the re-working of the draft policy on the display of posters on campus.

Mr. Keefer, seconded by Mr. Nazzal, made the following motion:

BIR that CCSL recommend to the Vice-Rector, Services and other appropriate bodies, that 100 new cork display bulletin boards be installed on university premises as well as 2 cork bulletin boards in each classroom to alleviate the posterage problem. The size would be the maximum size as allowed by fire codes.

A brief discussion followed on the motion. Ms Fowler asked about the possibility of designated 'mural space'. Dr. Shaver suggested that perhaps doors into the stairwells would be an option for the murals.

Mr. Keefer put forth the following amendment to his original motion:

*BIFR that space for 50 murals be created on
University premises for the use of students*

The Motion as amended was carried:15 in favour 0 opposed 2 abstentions

4.2 Muslim Prayer Space

Dr. Boisvert confirmed that he, as mandated by CCSL, had met with the Muslim Students Association and other relevant departments. He also confirmed that a letter would be sent to the President of the Muslim Students Association outlining the various solutions. Mr. Nizzal felt that as this issue was discussed at CCSL, Council should be informed of the outcome. Dr. Boisvert indicated that he was not comfortable discussing the contents of the letter until the President of the Muslim Student Association had received it. However, he said that a copy of the letter would be distributed to Council. Mr. Stom reiterated that the top floor of the Campus Centre could always be made available for Muslim Prayer Space.

4.3 1999-2000 Student Services Financial Statement

Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the Student Services Budget for 99-2000, which had been distributed previously. He welcomed questions from Council concerning the statement. There were none.

4.3 Subsidies in Trust Funding Proposal

Dr. Boisvert explained briefly that last year CCSL had approved an additional amount of \$100,000 per year for the next three years (2001-03) for major student initiated projects. At the September CCSL meeting, Council had approved the composition of the committee to deal with the allocation of these funds. He asked Mr. Côté, as chair of the Student Initiated Project Funding Allocation Committee to speak to this issue. Mr. Côté confirmed that the committee had prepared a mandate and a policy proposal for the approval of CCSL. He asked for comments.

Ms Fowler expressed concern with the maximum funding allocation as outlined in 3.5 of the proposal. She explained that the bulk of the funding for the Fine Arts Reading Room is obtained from CCSL. If their funding were to be phased out after 3 years, the future of the Reading Room would

be in jeopardy. Mr. Côté appreciated the concerns expressed. However, he explained that the funds were allocated primarily for **new** allocations. He cautioned that if the funds were continuously used to support "renewals", funding would not be available for new initiatives. Ms Fowler understood the reasoning, however she asked if CCSL could assist the Reading Room with their request to receive funding from the Dean of Fine Arts. A discussion followed concerning the process of allowing exceptions to point 3.5. Dr. Boisvert felt that the decision concerning an exception would be best made at the committee level. Ms Ryan agreed, adding that time was often of the essence and delays in decisions concerning funding could be problematic.

Mr. Keefer, seconded by Ms Fowler, made the following motion to amend the point 3.5 of the proposal:

Notwithstanding the formula for maximum funding allocation, BIR that CCSL Student Initiated Project Funding Allocation Committee allow exceptions to the funding allocation formula in certain circumstances.

The Motion was carried: in favour 17 opposed 0 abstentions 0

Discussion returned to the amended proposal. Ms Fowler asked if a project had a balance at the end of the year, would it be possible to carry this surplus over to the next year. Mr. Stom felt that if student groups had a surplus at the end of the year due to responsible management, any surplus should be available to them.

Ms Ryan said that point 5.6 was not flexible enough. She felt that although some projects may change their focus, they may still be worthwhile and she would not want their funding to be jeopardized.

Mr. Côté asked if Council would be willing to support the amended document in principle with the understanding that he will integrate the expressed concerns. He asked if the motion to approve the amended document could be tabled to the December 1, 2000 CCSL meeting. Council was in full agreement.

4.5 CSU Response to the University Draft Policy on Demonstrations

Dr. Boisvert asked if there was a formal response from the CSU at this

time. Mr. Keefer replied that the document prepared by Mr. Taylor last year addressed many of the concerns expressed by CSU. Dr. Boisvert explained that that report submitted by Mr. Taylor to CCSL was only the CSU's preliminary report and that it had been the understanding of Council that the CSU wished to submit a formal report to CCSL. However, as this item has now been on the agenda for a year, Dr. Boisvert expressed concern as how Council wished to proceed. Mr. Schultz explained that in light of the recent events in the CSU, there had not been sufficient time to deal with this issue properly. Mr. Stom asked if there were other responses to this policy. Dr. Boisvert replied that he had distributed the document to CCSL only. Mr. Keefer said that CSU would form a committee composed of students to prepare a formal response. Dr. Boisvert thanked Mr. Keefer and asked him to advise Ms Hackett when this item will be on the agenda.

4.6 CSU Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank Revised Report:

It was agreed to table this issue until the CSU financial situation was cleared up.

4.7 Committee to Recommend on the Registrar's Office

Dr. Boisvert informed Council he had received a copy of the mandate and membership which would be distributed to Council.

4.8 Student Participation in University Governance Report Update

Dr. Boisvert has asked Mr. Pruden for further elaboration of the eligibility criteria.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Student Affairs

Dr. Shaver gave an overview of the student affairs division of the Faculty of Arts & Science. An information package, which is available for students, was distributed to council. She briefly explained the importance of the role student affairs plays in the life of a student. She gave a description of the various forms/applications that are available from the faculty and the various procedures to follow. She reiterated that the information and procedures described were those of the Arts & Science Faculty and will differ from the other faculties. Dr. Jans spoke briefly on the student affairs division of the School of Graduate Studies and the many different services they provide. Graduate Studies offers programmes at the masters, diplomas, graduate certificate and doctoral level. The office also acts as the "registrar" for graduate students. Services such as Admissions, the Awards Office and the Publication Office are all handled

directly by Graduate Studies. Dr. Jans said although it is often said that Arts & Science is the "heart" of the university, Graduate Studies is considered "the brain!"

Dr. Boisvert thanked both Dr. Shaver and Dr. Jans for a most informative presentation.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

Mr. Keefer had several concerns with respect to the "Swap Agreement". This agreement involves the exchange of space between the Campus Centre and the Refectory Building. Mr. Stom agreed to send a list of these concerns to Ms Hackett for the December CCSL Agenda.

Mr. Keefer expressed reservations about the Mezz Renovations. He did not wish to see this space become a "fast food" outlet as an expansion of Marriott Foods. Dr. Boisvert replied that the renovations were being done in order to upgrade the Mezz to ensure a genuine student space of quality. He suggested that Mr. Pruden set up a meeting with the CSU to review the revised plans to allay any concerns.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

Ms Kerby confirmed that the first meeting of the Board for this year was scheduled for November 15th. As Mr. Zarins had to leave the meeting early, she asked that the Director of Recreation & Athletics Events Report be distributed to Council with the minutes of this meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Centre for Mature Students & New Student Programme

Mr. Côté drew Council's attention to the Report on the Collaboration Between the Centre for Mature Students and the New Student Programme, which had been previously distributed, to CCSL members. On behalf of the working group who prepared the report, Mr. Côté briefly gave an overview of the proposal. He explained that the report recommended that the collaboration between these two areas be formalized for a five (5) year period. At the end of that period, a review would be conducted. During that time the staff of both areas would be combined. He added that this type of collaboration between an academic area and a service area was considered to be innovative. Similar input was also being sought from Faculty Councils and the School of Graduate Studies.

Ms Calder asked if there might be a duplication of services with respect to the Welcome Centre in the Registrar's area. Ms Toscano said that the primary focus of the Welcome Centre was recruitment. She said that as the Centre for Mature Students has always offered advising for independent students, she hoped that that service would be retained. Mr. Côté agreed that that was an important aspect that should not get "lost in the shuffle".

Mr. Stom said that as the funds for the New Student Programme are generated from student fees, he asked for assurances that this fee would not be used to subsidize the Centre for Mature Students, a university department. Dr. Boisvert replied that the Board of Governors approved the funds for the new student programme and these funds have been and will continue to be used for their designated purpose only. Mr. Côté added that a delegate from Dean of Students Office and the Provost would oversee the "collaboration" to ensure proper management

As the funds are generated from a student fee, Mr. Keefer asked for student representation within the organizational chart to ensure that student needs are being met. Mr. Côté agreed to bring this concern back to the working group.

Mr. Côté informed Council that the New Student Programme is now under the jurisdiction of Counselling & Development. He added that historically there has always been a collaboration and connection between these two areas. As Director of Counselling & Development, Dr. Graub spoke briefly about the focus of the New Student Programme. She explained that it is not just a welcome centre but provides different kinds of developmental needs, assists with the transition to university life and can provide, where necessary, professional intervention. She also took the opportunity to introduce the new Coordinator for the New Student Programme Office, Ms Marlene Gross, to Council.

9. NEXT MEETING:

Mr. Keefer felt there was a need to meet more regularly. Dr. Boisvert said that normally CCSL meets approximately once a month. Mr. Keefer asked if a meeting could be scheduled for November 17th. Because of the short notice, some members indicated their unavailability. A "straw vote" was taken on whether Council wished to schedule a meeting for November 17th. Council voted against having a meeting. However Dr. Boisvert said there

was no reason why the schedule of meetings could not be revised, if needed. This item will be on the agenda for the December CCSL meeting.

Next Meeting: Friday, December 1, 2000 H 769 10:00am

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Ms Ryan and seconded by Ms Calder.

The Motion was carried unanimously